S. HRG. 99-847

NOMINATION OF THOMAS E. HARVEY

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATION OF THOMAS E. HARVEY TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

AUGUST 14, 1986

Printed for the use of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

63-951 O WASHINGTON : 1986

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office
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NOMINATION OF THOMAS E. HARVEY TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1986

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:12 a.m., in room SR-418, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Frank H. Murkowski (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Senators Murkowski, Simpson, Specter, and Cranston.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI

Chairman MURKOWSKI. I will call together the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. We are here today to hear the nomination of Thomas E. Harvey to be Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

I want to apologize for starting late. One of the inconvenient things about living very close to the Capitol, as I do, is the convenience of being called upon to open up the Senate. However, the President pro tempore did show up ahead of me but I was called upon then to relieve him. However, our majority whip is here, who also has arisen early out of necessity, and I want to welcome you as well as our nominee, the Honorable Thomas E. Harvey, whose nomination we are going to hear.

I have got a brief statement which I will attempt to summarize because I see it is four pages. And knowing the pattern set by Senator Simpson when he was chairman of this committee, at times brevity is appropriate.

I do want to wish you both a good morning. It is a pleasure, Tom, to welcome you back to the committee. And your very accomplished wife, Cathleen, is with us. Good morning. It wasn't too long ago that you were sitting on this side of the witness table when this committee held a similar hearing for your predecessor, Evert Alverez. You sat as committee chief counsel and staff director, next to the chairman, then Alan Simpson. And I see you are here this morning, but the situation is a bit reversed, which is really why we are both here.

In fact, you even presided during part of the hearing, so you are familiar with this room, the members, the staffs and the programs. And this is a distinct advantage. You will come to the Veterans' Administration with a working knowledge of the complex programs and understanding of the policy and the planning process, and not only knowledge of the committee but an intimate familiarity with

the responsibilities and interests of the committee and its members. And I assume that has both advantages and disadvantages, depending on the point of view.

However, the Deputy Administrator is a vital position in the Government's largest independent agency. As part of your statutory responsibilities, we plan to inquire into policy and administrative issues which will very likely confront you as Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. We will hear from you regarding your views in this important position for which you have been nominated by our President. You will be introduced to the committee by none other than our former distinguished chairman, Senator Alan Cranston.

Senator SIMPSON. Who? [Laughter.]

Chairman MURKOWSKI. It says right here, "Cranston." I cannot imagine. [Laughter.]

The chairman stands correct.

Senator SIMPSON. I'll talk to you later about that. [Laughter.]

Chairman MURKOWSKI. I am glad that you are all awake this morning and listening carefully to every word. [Laughter.]

Mr. HARVEY. I was.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Good. That makes me even more inclined to be fluent here and cohesive.

I have reviewed your biographical sketch. You have certainly had an impressive career, including distinguished combat service during the Vietnam war as a company commander with the 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. You were awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and 12 other decorations for valor and service.

As a White House fellow you were assigned to work as a link with the Congress on pending legislation as well as the preparation of the national foreign intelligence budget.

During your tenure at the Department of Defense, both as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions and as a principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Navy for Logistics, you had an excellent opportunity to participate in program planning, policy formation, and budget matters, especially relating to procurement.

As general counsel and congressional liaison at the U.S. Information Agency, you have rounded out your executive branch experience by supervision of the Agency's legal issues.

Your 2 years as chief counsel and staff director of this committee served to provide you with a substantive background in Veterans' Affairs so that as Deputy Administrator you will be able to hit the trail running.

You appear to have a wide variety of qualifications and experiences and I welcome you to the hearing today. It would be my intention to recommend that the committee approve your nomination immediately following this hearing, and that we ask the Senate to consider the nomination as expeditiously as possible. Of course, you are aware of the timeframe that we are currently working under as far as the Senate schedule is concerned.

I believe it is important to continue to underline our Nation's commitment to a comprehensive VA system of medical care and benefits, and to document that commitment by continuing a strong and open working relationship between the VA and Congress.

I look forward to working with you in your new capacity as we attempt to realize the fullest managerial potential of the Agency in order to provide the greatest benefit to our deserving veterans.

At this time, I request to be included in the hearing record the biographical sketch of Mr. Thomas E. Harvey, part I of the Statement for Completion by Presidential Nominees, a Veterans' Administration news release entitled "Harvey To Be Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs," and a letter from David H. Martin, Director, Office of Government Ethics.

[The biographical sketch, part I of the Statement for Completion by Presidential Nominees, the Veterans' Administration news release, and the letter from David H. Martin appear on pp. 11-22.]

Chairman MURKOWSKI. At this time, I wish to recognize my fine colleague, the ranking minority member of the committee, who is not here but has already been recognized. So I will defer to that and call on the majority whip, Senator Simpson. Good morning.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR SIMPSON

Senator SIMPSON. Good morning. Thank you, Senator Frank Stevens, of Alaska. [Laughter.]

Chairman MURKOWSKI. I live under that cloud too. [Laughter.]

I was prepared for something.

Senator SIMPSON. Yes. I knew you were.

Mr. Chairman, it is a special privilege to be here, distinctly so. And how fascinated I was at this alignment as Tom and I sit here, and you and Tony there, and John on the end. We have certainly had a musical chairs game. Tom used to hand me those four-page statements. I would say, good, God, you can do better than that, can't you? Shorten it up. And I see that you have got a four-pager there and that's the way that works.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Things do not seem to change.

Senator SIMPSON. No, they do not.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. The staff has a pattern and that's it.

Senator SIMPSON. I want to commend you on a fine job that you have done as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I haven't had that opportunity, and I take it now. You have a steady hand and are doing a beautiful job in some tough issues, especially with that POW/MIA live sighting thing. You have more innate patience and grace than I would have ever displayed under that situation. And certainly Tom Harvey would have been the same. We would have been gnawing holes through the upholstery on that one. And you and Tony have exhibited great skill in hearing those remarkable people and trying to get some results.

Well, we are here today on behalf of Tom Harvey. It is a deep personal privilege to do that, to be here for his determination for confirmation as Deputy Administrator. It is sometimes practiced in making introductions of this nature to use that hackneyed old phrase, you know, I make this introduction to someone who needs no introduction, and you have that here.

Indeed, he has no introduction to be made for him in this place. And he was the person who assisted me, who served me so faithfully, as staff director and chief counsel. He brought all of his full talents, and skills, and abilities, and, most importantly, himself to

this job, to my service, to your service, and to the service of this fine committee and to 28 million veterans. He is just a rock solid individual of known quality and quantity. And he is going to bring a great, great thing to the Veterans' Administration. He knows the ropes. He has all of the background, all of the credentials, to do such a superb job.

And the bonds of friendship and rapport he has developed in the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, in the House as well as the Senate, show that his abilities are really enormous. He is a fine negotiator, and a consensus builder, and he is uniquely qualified for this task.

I won't go on to relate his background. You have done that nicely. But it is most impressive, and all the other remarkable academic and military achievements, particularly those military achievements. That ought to please any veteran. Here is one who paid his dues. And one of the tedious things for me in this place has always been the veterans who I call the professional veterans sometimes who really, you know, you don't see the display of material on their chest that you see on the silent veteran who chose to pay his dues, and do the job, and go back to civilian life and get about his business. And that has been something.

And I have watched Tom. I have never seen him in an ego trip about winning the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and 12 other decorations, Combat Infantryman's Badget, Ranger, Senior Parachutist. That is the kind of a veteran I think that I admire most.

Some that I have found have done the least—never left the United States—raised the most hell. One of the interesting things about this business.

Actually the only combat experience that I ever was involved in with Tom Harvey is when I sent him into a closed room with Cooper T. Holt, Phil Riggin and Butch Joeckel, and he came out of there with his hair and hide intact. That was the only combat I have directed him into in this time.

So here he goes. And he is going to do an impressive job. He did it all for me on this committee. He served really, too, as far more than my counsel than my staff director. He was my friend in the fray. And he and his wife, Cathie, have been lovely friends then of mine, and this country will be well served.

I think there is a critical need for his service at the Veterans' Administration. We need to have his balance over there to be available to us. The extremely technical and wide-ranging issues we face daily, he is going to do that with his skill and grace and good humor—a very important part of him—the very qualities which made him an outstanding senior staff member at every step of his career. And I could not be more pleased to be here this morning or for my role in introducing him to the committee.

He will do a superb job. And he and Tom Turnage should do a very capable dual job with fairness and firmness. And the administration has made a splendid choice and I appreciate your good words about moving the nomination on. And I thank you very much. It is a great privilege to be here.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Thank you very much, Senator Simpson.

I might add for the benefit of my colleague, Senator Cranston, that I don't hold too much hope that we are going to get all seven

members here. As a consequence, it would be my intention to proceed on the floor during a vote and attempt to get a consensus on this nomination.

Senator Cranston, you have already been recognized this morning. [Laughter.]

And I will leave it to your imagination, or your staff director, Jon, to tell you how. But in any event, we look forward to your statement.

Senator CRANSTON. What are you talking about? [Laughter.]

Senator SIMPSON. He introduced me as Al Cranston. [Laughter.]

That's what he did.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. These long days and long nights.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR CRANSTON

Senator CRANSTON. I knew there was a nomination this morning, but, when I walked in the room and saw Alan Simpson sitting at that table, I wondered what was happening. He was changing roles.

I am delighted to join you, Frank, and the other members of the committee, not all of whom are present at the moment, in welcoming Tom Harvey and others to this hearing on his nomination to be Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. I will keep my opening remarks very brief.

As all of us in this room know, Tom, you are certainly no stranger to veterans' issues nor to the challenges that you will face if confirmed as Deputy Administrator. Indeed, I think it is interesting that at this committee's last hearing to confirm a Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs on August 5, 1982, Tom Harvey presided over the closing moments of that hearing. Well, Tom, it is good to see you back in these familiar surroundings. My congratulations to you on your nomination.

Mr. HARVEY. Thank you very much.

Senator CRANSTON. I applaud the chairman's decision to schedule this hearing so promptly, and I will cooperate in every way possible in trying to move ahead with the nomination along the lines you have now suggested.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Senator.

Senator CRANSTON. Having a fully functioning Deputy Administrator on board can be very important to the stability and effectiveness of the VA.

This nomination is particularly noteworthy in proposing to continue a tradition dating back to March 1977—more than 9 years ago—of having a Vietnam veteran in one of the top two positions at the VA. And I congratulate the President for carrying on that tradition.

Tom Harvey's background as a decorated combat veteran, principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Logistics, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, and chief counsel of this committee, as well as his experience as general counsel and congressional liaison of the U.S. Information Agency, will provide the VA with a most valuable and necessary reservoir of experience and knowledge.

I want further to note that as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee I was able to continue a working relationship with Tom

in his capacities at USIA. His work there has been highly regarded by the Foreign Relations Committee on both sides of the aisle.

Tom, I submitted written questions to you on Tuesday, and I thank you for your promptness and responsiveness in getting responses back to me last night.

[The written questions and responses appear on p. 43.]

Senator CRANSTON. I do not plan any further questions this morning except to submit to you in writing one further written question on behalf of Senators Metzenbaum and Glenn. I think you already have that material.

[The material referred to appears on p. 23.]

Senator CRANSTON. In closing, I want to reemphasize my view that repaying the debts we owe to those who gave of themselves in the armed services is a continuing cost of our Nation's defense and a fundamental national obligation. The challenges that we all face are great and the answers are rarely easy, but I pledge to do my best, Tom, if you are confirmed as Deputy Administrator, as I am certain you will be, to be helpful and to work with you cooperatively as we carry out our respective responsibilities.

I am pleased to say that I am delighted to support your nomination.

I have a statement from Senator DeConcini that I ask appear in the record.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. It will be received.

Senator CRANSTON. Thank you.

He regrets that he is tied up on Judiciary Committee business. They are handling that Chief Justice's nomination this morning, and thus will be unable to be with us at this time. He extends his warmest congratulations to you, Tom.

Thank you.

[The statement of Senator DeConcini appears on p. 30.]

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Thank you very much, Senator Cranston.

I also have a notation from Senator Denton that requests that although he cannot be with you this morning, Mr. Harvey, he extends his best wishes and full support for your nomination.

Well, Mr. Harvey, I see the Senators are about to depart, so you must be about to begin. [Laughter.]

Mr. HARVEY. I am, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. You may proceed. And we do welcome you, and we look forward to your testimony.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS E. HARVEY, NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. HARVEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. Thanks especially to Senator Al Simpson, for his very kind remarks and introducing me here this morning. I do very much appreciate that. I also appreciate your recognizing my wife, Cathie Black, who is here with me this morning. I might also mention that many of my colleagues from the U.S. Information Agency are here with me as well. I guess they are looking forward to making sure that I make it on down the road here.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Well, we would recognize them as well then. We want you to move down the road.

Mr. HARVEY. And I notice that many of my soon-to-be colleagues and former colleagues from the Veterans' Administration are here as well. And I am pleased that they are and I am looking forward to working with all of them.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. And some of the service organizations are represented here.

Mr. HARVEY. And I know that Bob Moran from Paralyzed Veterans is here and I know some of the other gentlemen representing the veterans' national veterans service organizations are here. I have not seen all of them.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. And if there is anyone else here that we haven't recognized, we welcome you as well.

Mr. HARVEY. I am sorry my mom and dad were not able to be here, my lighting director.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. We will recognize them anyway.

Mr. HARVEY. Mr. Chairman, you mentioned hitting the trail running. As they say, this is one of those issue areas where you are driving in the fast lane most of the time, and someone said, "You've got to be careful. Every once in a while what you find out is you are really in the oncoming lane."

I am particularly honored to have been nominated by the President to serve as Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. There are some very significant challenges which certainly you are much more familiar with than I that face me and Administrator Turnage. Significant among them, of course, is dealing with the needs of veterans during this time of a Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget, with the constraints that that imposes. How does one assure that the quality of care provided to our Nation's veterans is high as we all would wish and as is required by statute?

How does one assure that the needs of the aging veterans are met? Indeed the situation of the aging veterans is merely the cusp of the graying of America.

How does one assist Vietnam veterans who have yet to rejoin the mainstream of American life to do that? I very much see those as important challenges, and I look forward to addressing those. I look forward in doing so to being an advocate for veterans within this administration, to working with the veterans' service organizations whose own advocacy for veterans is so well established, and to working with you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of this committee and your fine staffs.

I thank you very much for the opportunity to be here with you this morning and I look forward to working with you, sir.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Recognizing the fact that there have been substantial changes—a new Veterans' Administration Director, Mr. Tom Turnage, who has only been in that position a short period of time—and you coming aboard as Deputy, obviously there are concerns over changes that may be initiated. I am sure people that have been used to a routine are wondering what to expect. Obviously the Director sets the pattern and the policies and so forth with the concurrence and assistance and guidance of the Deputy. Can you enlighten the committee on anything that you feel is a priority item? I do not want to put you in a position that would be uncompromising with Mr. Turnage, but you come into the position with a unique point of view—having been on this side for some-

time—I assume you have observed certain frustrations associated with the bureaucracy and probably have an anxious and rather energetic attitude to do something about certain things. It may be premature to share them with us, but I would just like to hear a few views that you have on what you think your contribution might be to expedite change, procedure, efficiency, responsibility, or what have you. Ard I notice that a few notebooks are being brought out now, so I would caution you in your response.

Mr. HARVEY. I promise not to name names.

Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that I have had a few conversations with General Turnage. I am very much looking forward to working with him and I believe he with me.

It has been his suggestion that we try to craft, in part, my responsibilities based upon my own background, my own particular competence.

He has indicated to me that I will be an important part of the policymaking process within the Veterans' Administration because he recognizes that I do have a unique background in coming to this position.

Yes, indeed, I have shared some of the frustrations in dealing with the Veterans' Administration.

It is interesting—and I found it interesting certainly when I was working with the committee—to go out and visit the facilities and find that in a VA hospital what people are really concerned about is providing the high quality care that we are all concerned about to deserving veterans who are entitled to that by statute.

In fact, I think that in the central office people are interested in assuring that that is done. It is such a behemoth.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. A big what?

Mr. HARVEY. Behemoth. A "Big Mother."

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Yes. All right.

Mr. HARVEY. It is just so hard to take an agency of that size and to make it as instantly responsive as we all would like it to be.

I hope I can work with the very fine quality professionals who are there, and I do know that they are good and they are committed; to be as responsible to the committee and to the Congress and to the needs of the veterans that we serve.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. How do you envision responding to the generalization that as staff director from time to time you obviously had to recommend to the chairman certain curtailments, perhaps of certain reductions in funding, that would generate perhaps an inference that you were not necessarily supporting funding for veterans' issues or veterans' benefits? Now you are on the other side, and you bear that record like we all do, and we have to vote yes or no.

Mr. HARVEY. I think that the particular schematic of benefits for veterans that has been designed over many, many years is something that really ought to be reviewed periodically, and must be reviewed periodically. It needs to be reviewed in light of the realities of the budget situation that faces us today.

I think it is most unrealistic to just say we can expect that; for example, new hospital facilities will be erected in accordance with the 5-year construction plan that may have been projected 10 years ago. That doesn't make sense. With the 10-year projection plan

that may have been—construction plan that may have been projected 5 years ago. It simply is not going to happen.

And, therefore, I think it is important to look at these benefits and the services that are provided, and to see what really are important, and to see what our meeting the needs of, in particular, those veterans that have the highest priority by statute, those who are service connnected disabled, and meeting those needs in the order of priority that exists within title 38 of the United States Code.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. I am curious to know from the standpoint of your advocacy for veterans 'programs and benefits in your about to be position, in light of the budgetary restrictions, the character of OMB and its recommendations, isn't that a pretty tough situation to go into? Cuts are coming. We know they are coming. We have felt them. And the need for prioritization or increased efficiencies is almost an absolute necessity, and yet the responsibility continues to our Nation's veterans. It means doing more with less. It can be done.

Mr. HARVEY. Mr. Chairman, I think there is no alternative but to make the effort to assure that it in fact is done. I think that it is important that the Administrator and the Deputy Administrator be very active advocates for programs for veterans.

I certainly am committed to doing that. I think any agency head must be an advocate for the programs represented by his agency in dealing within the counsels of OMB and elsewhere within the Government as the President's budget is assembled and as it's presented to the Congress.

I think you also have to recognize when you go into these positions that you don't win every fight. You try. And I do commit to making every effort to put the best, most effective argument on our efforts to get the funding to meet the needs for veterans. And I think that we will have a goodly amount of success.

The issue here is a bipartisan issue. I have never heard anybody who is not supportive of meeting those just needs, and that is both within the Administration and within the Congress. And I think that we will be successful.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Can you enlighten the committee on what your relationship with General Turnage will be in your working policy, procedure and so forth? Have you had an opportunity to communicate with Mr. Turnage so that there is an understanding of the various areas that you will be responsible for?

Mr. HARVEY. We have not focused on specific areas. He has—I do know that philosophically we are consistent. I have spoken to him about his own feeling, that it is important for the Administrator to be the advocate for veterans within the Administration.

He has said to me that he really plans to rely heavily upon my unique background in coming to this position, the experiences that I have had here on the Hill, experiences that I have had elsewhere in Government, and my own background as a Vietnam veteran, who saw extensive combat there, and who is, I think, sensitive to certain issues that are of particular concern to Vietnam veterans.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. Mr. Harvey, I am not going to prolong this. I think you have summed it up in your response. You have excellent qualifications. And I certainly intend to fully support

your nomination as I stated to you at the beginning of our hearing today.

Senator Simpson indicated in his remarks the relationship that you have had with this committee, and with him. And as was pointed out, the situation currently with Mr. Principi and myself is a close bond and one that has worked very well. So I would look forward to maintaining our quadruple relationship, and hopefully the communications can be open and concise. When you have problems, we would welcome you to utilize fully the expertise within this committee, or its staff. And obviously we will have occasion to see each other from time to time on questio... ..d issues of importance to the Nation's veterans, and I certainly look forward to working with you.

I don't think there is anything further to pursue. We have had 45 minutes of consideration on the nomination. It is unfortunate that we have not had more members present. But the Rehnquist nomination has taken up a good deal of the time this morning and probably may take most of the day. I have no idea of how that is going.

For the record, Senator Specter was here, and he had to proceed to the Rehnquist nomination.

And I indicated that Senator Denton's thoughts and support are with you.

Again, I would advise you that we will attempt to, during the course of events during the day on the floor of the Senate, prior to or immediately thereafter a vote, obtain a quorum of seven members in order to take action on your nomination.

So I wish you a very good day. And we look forward to completing our work today as you obviously do concerning your nomination.

Mr. HARVEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman MURKOWSKI. All right. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 9:46 a.m., the hearing was concluded.]

APPENDIX

THOMAS E. HARVEY

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Professional Experience:

General Counsel and Congressional Liaison 1983 to Present
United States Information Agency

USIA, by statute, "tells America's story to the world." It is the parent agency of Voice of America, Press, Information and Cultural attaches serving in U.S. missions abroad, Fulbright Scholarships and other international exchange programs. The Agency accomplishes its mission with a budget of $850 million and 9,000 employees.

As General Counsel, supervise attorneys involved in a broad range of legal issues, including labor relations litigation, international negotiations, government contracts, foreign and domestic claims, international telecommunications and copyright. As Congressional Liaison, supervise a staff involved in communicating with Congress, most significantly with Budget, Foreign Relations and Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress. C.L. communicates regularly with members on topics known to be of interest to them and responds to their inquiries. Also supervise the Exchange Visitor Visa staff which designates program sponsors for various exchange programs, authorizes the granting of exchange visitor visas, and polices the requirements of that visa program. The total office staff consists of 50 professional and clerical employees.

Chief Counsel and Staff Director 1981 to 1983
United States Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

The Committee has jurisdiction over all legislation affecting the nation's 28.5 million veterans and exercises oversight responsibility over the Veterans' Administration, the second largest agency of government with 230,000 employees and a budget of $26 billion and over the programs it administers. Supervised a staff of 22, drafted legislation for the Chairman, analyzed legislation submitted by others, developed hearings and committee reports and other legislative history. Assisted the Chairman in managing legislation on the Senate floor and, when adopted, negotiating compromise legislation in conference with the House of Representatives.

Department of Defense 1978 to 1981

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy February 1980 to March 1981
(Logistics)

Responsible for execution of the Department of the Navy's approximately $22 billion procurement budget and for all other matters relating to materiel acquisition, defense production, transportation, real estate and facilities utilization. Supervised a staff of 49 military and civilians.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army November 1978 to February 1980
(Acquisition)

Responsible for the Army-wide materiel acquisition functions, to include program planning, policy formulation and execution. Each year the Army initiates more than 3 million procurement contract actions totalling in excess of $12 billion. Also served as Chairman of the Army Contract Adjustment Board.

Adjunct Professor of International Affairs, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Academic Years 1980 to 1983

Taught a graduate course on the role of Congress in the formulation of foreign policy

White House Fellowship 1977 to 1978

One of 15 White House Fellows selected by the President. In that capacity, assigned as Special Assistant to Admiral Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence. Duties included service on the staff of the CIA Inspector General in inspections of various overt and covert activities, legislative liaison in conjunction with the preparation of Agency and Administration positions on pending legislation and participation in the preparation of the National Foreign Intelligence budget and its presentation through OMB to Congress.

Attorney 1972 to 1977
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy, New York City

General corporate legal practice with emphasis on banking, insolvency and bankruptcy matters.

Bar Memberships: New York, District of Columbia, Illinois and Indiana

Educational Background: **New York University**, LL.M., 1980

University of Notre Dame, B.A., 1963; J.D., 1966.
Law School scholarship, Moot Court, campus politics and service organizations.

University College School of Law, University of London, 1971 - 1972.
Studied international law with emphasis on the law of European Economic Communities.

Military Experience: **U.S. Army**, Captain - Infantry, 1966 to 1971.
Company command with 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC
Company command with 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam.
Advisor, Vietnamese Airborne Division.

Decorations: Silver Star, Purple Heart, and 12 others for valor and service.

Additional Qualifications: Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger, Senior Parachutist.

Personal: Married to Cathleen Black, Publisher of USA Today

STATEMENT FOR COMPLETION BY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

PART I: ALL THE INFORMATION IN THIS PART WILL BE MADE PUBLIC

Name: HARVEY (LAST) THOMAS (FIRST) EDWARD (OTHER)

Present address: 2915 Woodland Drive, N.W. Washington (CITY) D.C. (STATE) 20008 (ZIP CODE)

Position to which nominated: Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs

Date of nomination: August __, 1986

Date of birth: 9 (DAY) NOV (MONTH) 1941 (YEAR) Place of birth: Evanston, Illinois

Marital status: married Full name of spouse: Cathleen P. Black

Name and ages of children: none

Education:

Institution (including city and State)	Dates attended	Degrees received	Dates of degrees
University of Notre Dame	1959-63	BA	1963
Notre Dame, Indiana 46557			
Notre Dame Law School	1963-66	J.D.	1966
University College	1971-72	-	-
University of London, England			
New York University School of Law New York, N.Y.	1973-80	LL.M.	1980

Honors and awards: List below all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, military medals, honorary society memberships, and any other special recognitions for outstanding service or achievement.

High School: National Honor Society

Academic Scholarship to Notre Dame Law School

Military Decorations: Silver Star, Bronze Star (10LC), Air Medal (20LC), Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, Vietnamese Honor Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, Senior Parachutist, Ranger, Combat Infantryman

1

63-951 O - 86 - 2

Memberships: List below all memberships and offices held in professional, fraternal, business, scholarly, civic, charitable and other organizations for the last five years and any other prior memberships or offices you consider relevant.

Organization	Office held (if any)	Dates
American Bar Association		since 1966
Federal Bar Association		since 1984
St. Alban's Tennis Club		1986

Employment record: List below all positions (except military service) held since twenty-first birthday, including the title or description of job, name of employer, location of work, and inclusive dates of employment.

Please see attached resume for discussion of all employment since 1972. Prior to entering on active military duty in November 1966, I spent the summer after my second year of law school as a law clerk at Sedgwick, Detert, Moran and Arnold (San Francisco, CA) and the period from June-November 1966 as a law clerk at McDermott, Will & Emery (Chicago, Illinois). (Resume at Tab A).

Military service: List below all military service (including reserve components and National Guard or Air National Guard), with inclusive dates of service, rank, permanent duty stations and units of assignment, titles, descriptions of assignments, and type of discharge.

I entered on active duty as an Army infantry officer in November 1966. After basic officer training, I was assigned to NASA, Langley Research Center as a legal officer. In mid 1967 I volunteered for duty in Vietnam, attended Airborne and Ranger training and served briefly as company commander and staff officer with the 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, N.C. In May 1968 I arrived in Vietnam where I served a year as company commander with the 173rd Airborne Brigade

and one and one half years as an advisor with the Vietnamese Airborne Division. I was honorably discharged as a captain in February, 1971, and have remained in the Army Reserves since where I hold the rank of major. (A copy of my DD Form 214 detailing my military record and discharge is attached.) (Tab B)

Government experience: List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments other than those listed above.

see "Employment Record" above (Tab A)

Published writings: List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials you have written.

see attached bibliography (Tab C)

Political affiliations and activities: List all memberships and offices held in or financial contributions and services rendered to all political parties or election committees during the last five years.

Regular annual contributions to the Republican National Committee since 1976 (generally in the amount of about $100.); Alan K. Simpson for Senate ($200.00 - 1984). Tony Hope for Congress ($500.00 - 1986) George Hirsch for Congress ($1,000.00 - 1986.)

Future employment relationships:

1. Indicate whether you will sever all connections with your present employer, business firm, association or organization if you are confirmed by the Senate.

- yes -

2. State whether you have any plans after completing government service to resume employment, affiliation or practice with your previous employer, business firm, association or organization.

- no -

3. Has a commitment been made to you for employment after you leave Federal service?

- no -

4. Do you intend to serve the full term for which you have been appointed or until the next Presidential election, whichever is applicable?

- yes -

Potential conflicts of interest:

1. Describe any financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements or other continuing financial, business or professional dealings with business associates, clients or customers who will be affected by policies which you will influence in the position to which you have been nominated.

My own review indicates that there are no potential conflicts.

2. List any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other financial relationships which constitute potential conflicts of interest with the position to which you have been nominated.

- none -

3. Describe any business relationship, dealing or financial transaction which you have had during the last five years whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that constitutes a potential conflict of interest with the position to which you have been nominated.

- no -

4. List any lobbying activity during the past 10 years in which you have engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat or modification of any Federal legislation or of affecting the administration and execution of Federal law or policy.

As General Counsel and Congressional Liaison of the United States Information Agency and as an Army Reservist attached to the Office, Chief of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Army, I have been involved in supporting the Administration's legislative program for both those agencies.

5. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest that may be disclosed by your responses to the above items.

Should a conflict appear, I would anticipate liquidating the holdings which result in such conflict.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD
SAFEGUARD IT.

PERSONAL DATA

1. LAST NAME-FIRST NAME-MIDDLE NAME: HARVEY, THOMAS EDWARD
2. SERVICE NUMBER: 05 530 879
3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 309 42 1180
4. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS: ARMY USAR INF
5a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK: CPT
5b. PAY GRADE: 03
6. DATE OF RANK: DAY 12 MONTH FEB YEAR 68
7. U.S. CITIZEN: [X] YES [ ] NO
8. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State or Country): EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
9. DATE OF BIRTH: DAY 9 MONTH NOV YEAR 41

SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA

10a. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER: 12 250 41 149
b. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND ZIP CODE: LB# 250 SOUTH BEND INDIANA
c. DATE INDUCTED: DAY NA MONTH YEAR

TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE DATA

11a. TYPE OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE: RELIEVED FROM ACTIVE DUTY
b. STATION OR INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED: US ARMY PERSONNEL CENTER OAKLAND CALIFORNIA
c. REASON AND AUTHORITY: SEC XX CHAP 3 AR 635-100 SPN 619 VOLUNTARY REQUEST
d. EFFECTIVE DATE: DAY 2 MONTH FEB YEAR 71
12. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND: MACV LNO USMACV
13a. CHARACTER OF SERVICE: HONORABLE
b. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED: NONE
14. DISTRICT, AREA COMMAND OR CORPS TO WHICH RESERVIST TRANSFERRED: REVERT TO USAR CONTROL GROUP/ STANDBY /USAAC ST LOUIS MO.
15. REENLISTMENT CODE: NE

SERVICE DATA

16. TERMINAL DATE OF RESERVE/UNITAS OBLIGATION: DAY MONTH YEAR NA
17. CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (OTHER THAN BY INDUCTION)
a. SOURCE OF ENTRY: [ ] ENLISTED [ ] ENLISTED [ ] REENLISTED [X] OTHER: ORDERED TO AD FROM USAR
b. TERM OF SERVICE: NA
c. DATE OF ENTRY: DAY 13 MONTH NOV YEAR 66
18. PRIOR REGULAR ENLISTMENTS: NONE
19. GRADE, RATE OR RANK AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SVC: 1LT
20. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE: SOUTH BEND INDIANA
21. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE: 2501 MIAMI ST., SOUTH BEND, (ST JOSEPH), INDIANA 46614
22. STATEMENT OF SERVICE

		YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS
a. CREDITABLE FOR BASIC PAY PURPOSES (1) NET SERVICE THIS PERIOD		4	2	20
(2) OTHER SERVICE		3	5	5
(3) TOTAL (Lines (1) plus Line (2))		7	7	25
b. TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE		4	2	20
c. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE	USARPAC	2	8	14

23a. SPECIALTY NUMBER & TITLE: 71542 (PARACHUTIST) INF UNIT COMDR
b. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER: NONE
24. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED: NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL PARACHUTE BADGE, RANGER TAB, BRONZE STAR MDL(2OLC) VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL ARMY COMMENDATION MDL, AIR MEDAL, COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE, VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDALVN PARA BADGE SR LEVEL, VN GALLANTRY CROSS W SS, SILVER STAR
25. EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPLETED: USA INF SCH IOBC #6 1967
JAGS PROOUREMENT LAW 1967
USA INF SCH ABN #4 1967
USA INF SCH RANGER #3-68 1967
HQ 82D ABN DIV JUMPMASTER 1-68 1968
JAGS JA BASIC INDOCTRINATION 1970
WODLO3-L

VA INS EMP SERVICE DATA

26a. NON-PAY PERIODS TIME LOST (Preceding Time Items): NONE
b. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID: 60
27a. INSURANCE IN FORCE (YES or NO): [X] YES [ ] NO
b. AMOUNT OF ALLOTMENT: NA
c. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED: NA
28. VA CLAIM NUMBER: C- NA
29. SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE: [ ] $10,000 [ ] $5,000 [X] $15,000

REMARKS

30. REMARKS
CIVILIAN EDUCATION: 19 YEARS LLB LAW
BLOOD GROUP: O POS
ITEM #5A: PERM 1LT USAR APTD 13NOV66
RVN: 11MAY68-24JAN71
ITEM 24: VN ARMED FORCES HONOR MEDAL 1ST CL, AIR MEDAL 2D AWD, 5 O/S BARS

AUTHENTICATION

31. ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE: SAME AS ITEM 21
32. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED
33. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER: D CLARK 1LT INF ASST ADJ
34. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN

DD FORM 1 JUL 66 214 — PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE EFFECTIVE 1 JAN 67. — ☆ GPO: 1968 351-112 — ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE — 1

Bibliography:

Book Review, People Not Hardware - The Highest Defense Priority, by Laird, Melvin R., American Enterprise Institute Special Analysis 80-1, The Notre Dame Lawyer, Vol. 56, No. 1, Fall 1980.

"Social and Economic Goals and Their Impact on the Defense Acquisition Process," The Notre Dame Lawyer, Vol. 55, No. 2, December 1979, at 254. A commentary on various social goals implemented through the expenditure of the Defense procurement budget.

"Concurrency Today in Acquisition Management," Defense Systems Management Review, Vol, 3, No. 1, Winter 1980, at 14. A discussion of the concurrent development and procurement of weapons systems, one of the means utilized to shorten the acquisition cycle.

Book Review, Bankruptcy Reform, American Enterprise Institute Legislative Analysis No. 19, 95th Congress, Journal of Legislation, Vol. 5, 1978, at 194. (published by Notre Dame Law School).

"Municipal Debt Adjustment," The Business Lawyer, Vol. 33, No. 1, November 1977, at 221. An analysis of recently amended provisions of the Bankruptcy Act applicable to municipalities and, in particular, their application to a possible bankruptcy of New York City.

"A Guide to Real Property Arrangements Under Chapter XII of the Bankruptcy Act" Real Estate Law Journal, Vol. 5, No. 3, Winter 1977, at 211.

"How to Write a Resume--as if Your Job Depended on it," Student Lawyer, October 1976. An article directed at recent law school graduates giving pointers on how to write an effective resume.

"How to Interview an Interviewer," (with Thomas Edmonds and the Editors), Student Lawyer, January 1977. An article directed at law students and recent graduates describing effective job interviewing techniques.

Office of Public
and Consumer Affairs

Washington DC 20420
(202) 389-2741

Veterans Administration

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARVEY TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

President Reagan has announced his intention to nominate Thomas E. Harvey to be Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs. He will succeed Everett Alvarez, Jr., who has returned to private life.

Harvey, a Vietnam veteran and holder of the Silver Star, has been General Counsel and Congressional Liaison for the U. S. Information Agency since 1983. For two years before that he was Chief Counsel and Staff Director for the U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In 1980-81, he was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Logistics, and was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquistion from 1978 to 1980.

Harvey served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1971. An infantry captain, he commanded a company with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam and was an advisor to a Vietnamese Airborne Division. In addition to the Silver Star, he holds the Purple Heart and 12 other decorations for valor and service.

-more-

He earned a B.A. degree in 1963 and a J.D. degree in 1966 from the University of Notre Dame, and an LL.M. degree from New York University in 1980. In 1971 and 1972 he studied at the University College School of Law at the University of London.

During the academic years of 1980-1983, Harvey was an Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He received a White House Fellowship in 1977-78, and before that was an attorney with the firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy in New York City.

He is married and resides in Washington, D.C. He was born November 9, 1941, in Evanston, Ill.

# # #

August 6, 1986

(Dist: I, II, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10)

United States
Office of Government Ethics
P.O. Box 14108
Washington, D.C. 20044

AUG 12 1986

Honorable Frank H. Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Thomas E. Harvey, who has been nominated by President Reagan for the position of Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Veterans Administration.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the Veterans Administration concerning any possible conflict in light of the Administration's functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Based thereon, we believe Mr. Harvey is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

David H. Martin
Director

Enclosure

OGE 132-A-6
March 1986

STROM THURMOND, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN
CHARLES McC. MATHIAS, JR., MARYLAND
PAUL LAXALT, NEVADA
ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH
ALAN K. SIMPSON, WYOMING
JOHN P. EAST, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
JEREMIAH DENTON, ALABAMA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
MITCH McCONNELL, KENTUCKY
JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
DENNIS DeCONCINI, ARIZONA
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
HOWELL HEFLIN, ALABAMA
PAUL SIMON, ILLINOIS
DENNIS W. SHEDD, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
DIANA L. WATERMAN, GENERAL COUNSEL
DEBORAH G. BERNSTEIN, CHIEF CLERK
MARK H. GITENSTEIN, MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 12, 1986

Mr. Thomas E. Harvey
Nominee for Deputy Director,
Veterans Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Harvey:

Several years ago, we assisted Youngstown area veterans in preventing the closing of a Veterans Administration outpatient clinic in Youngstown. It appears that the clinic has once again been targeted for extinction.

In correspondence over the past years with the Chief Medical Director, we have consistently emphasized the need to maintain the clinic. At our request, a study of the need to maintain the facility was undertaken by the VA. The study projected a potential for over 39,000 outpatient visits per year in 1990 for the five-county area around and near Youngstown. This is a 62% increase over the 24,000 actual visits in 1984. Despite the finding that, in the Youngstown area, "potential demand is demonstrated",- outpatient functions are to be relocated to the Butler VAMC. This would mean a round trip of 100 miles for Youngstown veterans.

It is our belief, as well as that of the Youngstown veterans' organizations, that closing the clinic will place undue additional burdens on an already economically depressed area, and on the many veterans who reside there.

We are concerned that the VA, in ignoring the needs of a high demand area like Youngstown for readily accessible outpatient services, would not be faithful to its mandate to provide reasonably accessible quality medical care to our nation's veterans.

Therefore, we are requesting that, prior to final Senate consideration of your nomination, you provide us with your evaluation of the need for outpatient clinic services in Youngstown, and of your intentions about maintaining outpatient services there.

Very sincerely yours,

John Glenn
United States Senator

Howard M. Metzenbaum
United States Senator

HMM/evb
JG/pb

United States Information Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Senator Glenn:

Senator Cranston provided me with your August 12 letter regarding the Youngstown clinic prior to my confirmation hearing this morning.

I have asked the Administrator to take no further action with regard to the closure of the Youngstown clinic until I have had an opportunity to personally review the situation there. If confirmed as Deputy Administrator, I would propose to him that I do that, and perhaps, if appropriate, visit Youngstown to discuss the matter with veterans actually served by the clinic, at a very early date.

Of course, I would be pleased to discuss this with you further at any time.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey
General Counsel and
Congressional Liaison

The Honorable
John Glenn
United States Senate

United States Information Agency

Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

Senator Cranston provided me with your August 12 letter regarding the Youngstown clinic prior to my confirmation hearing this morning.

I have asked the Administrator to take no further action with regard to the closure of the Youngstown clinic until I have had an opportunity to personally review the situation there. If confirmed as Deputy Administrator, I would propose to him that I do that, and perhaps, if appropriate, visit Youngstown to discuss the matter with veterans actually served by the clinic, at a very early date.

Of course, I would be pleased to discuss this with you further at any time.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Harvey
General Counsel and
Congressional Liaison

The Honorable
Howard M. Metzenbaum
United States Senate

DAV

Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-3501

August 12, 1986

Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chairman
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
414 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have this date received your letter of August 7, 1986, inviting participation of the Disabled American Veterans during the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing to consider the nomination of Mr. Thomas E. Harvey for the position of Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Contrary to long established policy concerning the nomination of individuals to fill the important positions of Administrator and/or Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs, the DAV was not consulted, nor were our views solicited, during the selection process which has apparently resulted in Mr. Harvey's nomination.

Our organization therefore has taken no official position on Mr. Harvey's nomination and we respectfully decline your invitation to testify.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. JOECKEL, JR.
Executive Director
Washington Headquarters

CEJ:lrd

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (R-SC) BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS REFERENCE THE HEARING ON THE NOMINATION OF THOMAS E. HARVEY TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1986, 9:00 A.M., ROOM DR-418

MR. CHAIRMAN:

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HEAR THIS MORNING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR MR. THOMAS E. HARVEY AS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS. THE COMMITTEE IS CHARGED WITH THIS CONFIRMATION RESPONSIBILITY UNDER SECTION 210 OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

MR. HARVEY, WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU HERE THIS MORNING AND LOOK FORWARD TO EXPLORING YOUR VIEWS ON THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES THAT YOU WOULD ENCOUNTER AS DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR AND THE QUALIFICATIONS YOU WOULD BRING TO THAT POSITION.

MR. HARVEY, YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS. YOU WOULD BE THE SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT AGENCY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WITH A BUDGET OF ALMOST $30 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. MORE IMPORTANTLY YOU WOULD BE INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN A DECISION MAKING PROCESS WHICH EFFECTS THE MORE THAN 28 MILLION VETERANS OF OUR ARMED FORCES. THE POSITION FOR WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED IS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY AND IMPORTANCE.

You would carry with you to the position at the Veterans' Administration a distinguished career of service to your Country including military service in Vietnam, civilian service with the Department of Defense and almost two years as the Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. You served this Committee well during your tenure as the Staff Director, and I believe that experience makes you even more qualified for the position at the Veterans' Administration.

The Veterans' Administration, as are all other agencies and departments within the Federal Government, is experiencing budgetary constraints brought about by the need to control the Federal deficit. I believe that it is very important to change the deficit spending practices of this government -- a change which would benefit veterans as well as all other Americans. I do not, however, desire to see curtailed, those benefits and programs which have been established for this Nation's needy and deserving veterans. I would suggest that budget constraints within the Veterans' Administration can be effectively dealt with through an efficient administration of that agency.

Mr. Chairman, I find Mr. Harvey eminently qualified to serve as Deputy Administrator of Veterans' Affairs and I will support him for confirmation before the full Senate. I am confident that this Committee and the full Senate will approve Mr. Harvey's nomination, and I therefore look forward to working with him again in the area of veterans' affairs.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DeCONCINI
SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR THOMAS E. HARVEY
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
AUGUST 14, 1986

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee and Guests: I would like to warmly welcome Tom Harvey back to this Committee, and to extend my sincere congratulations to hi on his nomination for the position of Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration This room is one with which Tom is very familiar and one with which he will become even more familiar in the weeks and months ahead.

Tom Harvey's two years of service with this Committee as its staff director, his government service with the United States Information Agency and the Department of Defense couple with his experience as a combat veteran of the Vietnam conflict provide an excellent background for success in the position for which he has been nominated. His in-depth knowledge of the programs of the Veterans Administration combined with his intimate knowledge of the workings and non-workings of the Congress will be tremendous assets in the position he is about to assume.

Tom also has an impressive military record, having been decorated more times than my last birthday cake. His distinguished military career convinces this Senator that Tom is a fighter, and I would encourage him to engage in whatever battles may be necessary in order to preserve and protect the programs and benefits which have been promised to our nation's veterans. In this era of severe budgetary constraints and

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, it is vitally important that the veteran community know that they have a decorated combat veteran within the Veterans' Administration who will fight their cause within the agency. Your distinguished military career and your many years of government service provide the background for you to be both an effective and compassionate Deputy Administrator.

The position of Deputy Administrator of the Veterans' Administration poses enormous challenges, and I know you will undertake your responsibilities with great seriousness. I wish you well and pledge to work closely with you to insure that the nation's commitments to its veterans are honored.

Finally, I note that you are a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, the same institution that graduated my Legislative Director, Mary Hawkins. She has given my an ultimatum to support your nomination or she will refuse to continue to staff this Committee for me. Under that threat and for the reasons stated above, I am pleased to support your nomination.

Statement of

DAVID J. PASSAMANECK
AMVETS National Legislative Director

Before the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES SENATE

On

Confirmation of Thomas E. Harvey as
Deputy Administrator of Veterans Administration

0900, August 14, 1986, SR-414

AMVETS is pleased to present our views on the nomination of Thomas E. Harvey to be Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration. Since completing exemplary service as an infantry captain in Vietnam, Mr. Harvey has distinguished himself in numerous responsible positions on the White House staff, in the Defense Department, as Chief Counsel and Staff Director of this Committee and most recently as General Counsel of the United States Information Agency. We in AMVETS have had pleasant and productive association with him during his tenure as Mr. Principi's immediate predecessor, and have every reason to expect him to serve as an articulate advocate of veterans.

It is particularly fortunate that this highly qualified, decorated combat veteran will be able to contribute his experience and sensitivity to the administration of the VA at a time when the excellent relationship between the VA and the veterans service organizations, established by Mr. Harry Walters, is rapidly falling apart and reverting to the old unilateral approach which too often in the past demonstrated little more than contempt by the VA for the views of the VA's constituency, America's veterans. The nomination of Mr. Harvey without any consultation with the service organizations, together with the high-handed way in which the Chief Medical Director was banished, also without any opportunity for an intelligent exchange of views within the veterans' community, has poisoned the atmosphere in that community in a remarkably short time. We hope that Mr. Harvey will take the word to the Administrator that 810 Vermont Avenue

is not the Pentagon.

This is a troubling period for veterans. There is ample room for difference of opinion on many issues. There is, however, no excuse for these demonstrations by the VA of what we hope is, at best, extraordinarily bad public relations. The nomination of Tom Harvey is a good one. There was no reason to handle it in what too closely resembles an arrogant manner.

Statement of

The American Legion

1608 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

from

E. Philip Riggin, Director
National Legislative Commission
The American Legion

to the

Committee on Veterans Affairs
United States Senate

on

Nomination of Thomas E. Harvey to
Deputy Administrator of the
Veterans Administration

August 14, 1986

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The American Legion appreciates this opportunity to present its views on the nomination of Thomas E. Harvey to succeed Everett Alvarez, Jr. as Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration. Under the circumstances, we are more familiar with the talents and abilities of Mr. Harvey than we might be with another nominee. This, of course, is because we had the opportunity to work with him between 1981 and 1983 during his tenure as Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. In that regard, Mr. Harvey's previous veterans affairs experience should be of particular value in the position for which he has been nominated.

That notwithstanding, as a nonpartisan veterans service organization chartered by Congress, we are constrained from endorsing or opposing the nomination of any political appointee. In that regard, assuming Mr. Harvey is approved by this committee and subsequently by the Senate, we reserve the right to disagree with and challenge any actions taken by Mr. Harvey in his capacity as Deputy Administrator which may seem to us as contrary to the best interests of the veterans the agency is designed to serve.

Rather than offer specific comment on the nomination, we will express our view of what the role of the Deputy Administrator ought to be. We have seen, for example, three Administrators and two Deputy Administrators since 1981. Throughout that period the management relationship between Administrators and Deputies has spanned the full range from full partnership in decisionmaking to near complete disharmony. As a significant representative of the veterans community, we have carefully observed the relationship of VA to veterans organizations. That relationship has flourished under harmonious VA management, but it has occasionally become acrimonious under discordant or unresponsive VA regimes.

In our view, it is critically important that the VA Deputy Administrator be accepted as a full partner by the Administrator and that his opinions be an

integral part of agency policy making. Recognizing the fact that the Deputy Administrator will frequently be called upon to represent the Administrator in his absence, we expect the Deputy to be capable of accurately communicating the policy choices of the VA both in and out of Washington, DC.

After having said that, we further expect the Deputy Administrator, as with the Administrator himself, to be easily accessible to the veterans service organizations. In that connection, we maintain it is important that significant policy options be discussed with the major veterans organizations prior to final decisions being rendered. Our input into these decisions offers the VA the best possible opportunity to avert the sort of misunderstandings in the field that all too often in the past have led to confusion and mistrust.

Moreover, as a full partner in VA decisionmaking we believe the Deputy should be an advocate for the nation's veterans. History has shown that ideological commitment to fiscal austerity without proper consideration for the genuine needs of veterans, has been damaging to cooperative relations between VA and the veterans community. This has been true whether the issues involved programs operated by the Department of Medicine and Surgery, Department of Veterans Benefits, the Office of Construction or the State Home program. Similarly, we expect that the Deputy VA Administrator should be as willing to defend veterans benefit programs against shortsighted OMB initiatives as is necessary to maintain the integrity of those programs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes our statement.

WRITTEN PREHEARING QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI TO
MR. HARVEY AND THE RESPONSES

Question 1.

WHAT IS YOUR VIEW REGARDING THE CONTINUING NEED FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS SUCH AS THE VET CENTERS AND SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS SUCH AS VETERANS' READJUSTMENT APPOINTMENTS (VRA) AND THE VETERANS' JOB TRAINING ACT?

Answer 1.

I do believe that many Vietnam Veterans still suffer from problems associated with their military service. I believe it is appropriate that certain programs oriented towards assisting those veterans and towards providing appropriate assistance to those veterans remain intact. I am not, however wed to particular programs, and believe that over time, as the average age of the Vietnam Veteran approaches 40, programs to benefit that group of Veterans should be reassessed and modified to assure they are responsive to the Veterans' needs.

Question 2.

AS A VIETNAM VETERANS YOURSELF AS WELL AS FORMER STAFF DIRECTOR OF THIS COMMITTEE, YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE ISSUE OF AGENT ORANGE. WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS VERY EMOTIONAL ISSUE?

Answer 2.

The subject of Agent Orange is indeed a very emotional issue. I believe it is important that every effort be made to pursue scientific evidence regarding any possible causal relationship between exposure to the toxic element in Agent Orange while serving in the Republic of Vietnam and health effects on Veterans today. Should it be determined that Agent Orange has caused physical disabilities, Veterans suffering from such disabilities should be appropriately compensated.

Question 3.

THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY EVEN WITHIN THE VA AS TO THE BEST DIRECTION TO GO IN THE AREA OF AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING (ADP). THE LAST TWO DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS HAD MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE POLICY DECISIONS REGARDING ADP MATTERS. FROM YOUR TESTIMONY IT SEEMS THAT YOU DO NOT YET KNOW IF ADP WILL BE YOUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY; HOWEVER, PLEASE SUMMARIZE FOR THE COMMITTEE, YOUR VIEWS REGARDING CENTRAL VS DECENTRALIZED POLICY OF VA ADP SYSTEMS, BOTH FOR THE MEDICAL CENTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' BENEFITS AND OTHER NECESSARY VA SYSTEMS.

Answer 3.

I have not yet discussed my role with regard to the automated data processing systems of the V.A. with Administrator Turnage. I do know that there are strong arguments put forth both for the centralized and decentralized systems throughout the V.A. I look forward to looking into this area in greater detail, if confirmed, and will be happy to discuss the matter at length with the committee when I am more knowledgeable about it.

Question 4.

AT MY REQUEST, THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING (GAO) OFFICIAL REVIEWED THE VA'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS. GENERALLY, REGARDING HEALTH CARE, GAO FOUND THAT PRESENTLY THE VA HAS NO NATIONAL HEALTH-CARE STRATEGY. GAO STATED SUCH A STRATEGY CANNOT BE PUT INTO EFFECT WITHOUT A TOTAL REVISION AND UPDATE OF ITS DATA PROCESSING SYSTEMS. PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR PHILOSOPHY REGARDING THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP WITH AND NEED FOR A LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HEALTH CARE AND HOW THAT RELATES TO ADP SYSTEMS.

Answer 4.

I have not yet had an opportunity to review the GAO report on the V.A.'s financial management systems. I do believe intuitively that the V.A. should have long term strategic plans in place for providing quality health care to this nations Veterans. Indeed, as a key element of the American system for providing health care to a significant portion of the population, it would seem to be the responsibility as well as the great opportunity represented by the V.A. to participate in such planning. Obviously, such planning requires information both in its inception and in its implementation. ADP systems are essential to providing such information. Beyond that, I cannot comment with much greater specificity. I will look forward to looking into the issues raised by this question, if confirmed, and would be pleased to work with the committee in addressing them.

Question 5.

AS YOU KNOW, THIS COMMITTEE HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED A MOVE TOWARDS GREATER USE OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO HEALTH CARE. SHOULD THESE INITIATIVES BE EXPANDED, OR DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE VA SHOULD REMAIN AN INSTITUTION-BASED SYSTEM?

Answer 5.

I do believe that non institutional alternatives to health care should continue to be explored and expanded by the V.A.

Question 6.

THE VA'S OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT REORGANIZATION UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. TURNAGE. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION PLANNING PROCESS BY THE CONSULTING FIRM OF BOOZE/ALLEN/HAMILTON, THE ORIGINAL REORGANIZATION PLAN PROPOSED BY DR. DITZLER AND THE CURRENT PROPOSAL MADE BY MR. TURNAGE? IF SO, PLEASE COMMENT. IF NOT, PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR VIEWS ON THE WAY IN WHICH THE VA'S CONSTRUCTION PLANNING PROCESS SHOULD BE CHANGED.

Answer 6.

I am not aware of the specific changes taking place in the Office of Construction, nor am I aware of the proposals of Booze-Allen. In general terms, my views of the construction planning process are that such planning should be predicated upon a combination of projected need and likely resources.

Question 7.

PLEASE COMMENT ON YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE CHIEF BENEFITS DIRECTOR AND THE CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR. SHOULD THEY HAVE POLICY-MAKING RESPONSIBILITIES?

Answer 7.

The Chief Medical Director and Chief Benefits Director of the V.A. are the principal senior staff officers of the Agency with responsibility for the management of the Department for Medicine and Surgery and the Department of Veterans Benefits. They should have a significant role in the policy making process, as they are the officers with key responsibility for carrying out policies adopted by an administrator.

Question 8.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE CURRENT CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR, DR. JOHN DITZLER, MIDWAY THROUGH HIS STATUTORY FOUR-YEAR TERM?

Answer 8.

I am unaware of the facts surrounding the departure of Dr. Ditzler from the position of Chief Medical Director, and am therefore not able to extrapolate to the implications of that.

Question 9.

THE VA HAS NOT IMPLEMENTED AN IMPORTANT PROVISION OF P.L. 99-166, WHICH I AUTHORED, WHICH REQUIRED THE VA TO SET STANDARDS, AND COLLECT AND ANALYZE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY STATISTICS IN ORDER TO DETECT WHAT, IF ANY, QUALITY OF CARE PROBLEMS EXIST IN VA HEALTH-CARE SERVICES.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR VIEW REGARDING THE NEED FOR A VA QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE CAPABILITY TO COLLECT MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY DATA, AS WELL AS STANDARDS TO BE USED TO COMPARE THE VA TO OTHER HEALTH-CARE SYSTEMS AND TO MAKE COMPARISONS WITHIN THE VA.

Answer 9.

I believe it is incumbent upon the V.A. to provide the highest possible quality of care to this nations Veterans entitled by law to such care within the V.A. system. It would seem that the standards applicable to other health care providers should be applied to the V.A. as well. I am not personally aware of what those standards are, but to the extent that morbidity and mortality data are relevant, it would seem appropriate for the V.A. to collect and analyze those.

Question 10.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR TO HAVE (AND DO YOU FEEL CONFIDENT YOU WILL HAVE) A MAJOR ROLE IN THE AGENCY'S POLICY-MAKING PROCESS?

Answer 10.

I believe, and I know that Administrator Turnage does, that the Deputy Administrator should have a significant role in the Agency's policy making process. I am confident that, if confirmed, once I have assumed the post of Deputy Administrator and have been read into the various significant issues affecting the V.A. today I will assume responsibility for significant aspects both of V.A. policy making and management.

In a conversation I had with Administrator Turnage on Monday of this week, he mentioned that he is looking forward to relying heavily upon input from me to the policy making process based upon my own background as a Vietnam Combat Veteran, as a former member of this committee staff, and as a federal executive who has had extensive dealings over the past several years within the executive and legislative branches of government.

WRITTEN PREHEARING QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CRANSTON TO

MR. HARVEY AND THE RESPONSES

Question 1.

What discussions have you had with the Administrator regarding the responsibilities you would have if confirmed as the Deputy Administrator?

Answer 1. I have had two substantive meetings with the Administrator regarding my role, if confirmed, as Deputy Administrator. In both of these, we acknowledged that each of us brings a particular background and particular areas of competence to our position, as do others in senior management positions within the V.A. Once confirmed, both the Administrator and I envisioned that after I have been read in on the current status of the significant issues facing the V.A. today, there will be some reallocation of the responsibilities generally resident within the office of the Administrator. Those which I would assume would draw upon my particular background, area of competence, and areas of special interest. I would envision that I would assume significant responsibilities with regard to the V.A.'s relations with Congress and the Veterans Service Organizations, and with regard to issues of special interest to Vietnam Veterans, for example.

Question 2.

What would your role be in policy-making decisions at the agency?

Answer 2. I have every expectation that the Administrator would include me fully in any deliberations preceding policy decisions that he would make, and would further expect that in the formulation of policy, he would place heavy reliance upon my own background and expertise.

Question 3.

A May 12, 1986, Memorandum from the Administrator to all VA Department Heads, Associate Deputy Administrators and Staff Office Directors describes the organizational structure of the Office of the Administrator.

A. The Administrator stated in this memorandum: "When the Deputy Administrator is named and confirmed, this individual will serve as my full alter ego, functioning in all respects in accordance with my specific direction."

(i) What is your understanding of what this statement means in terms of your managerial responsibilities if confirmed as Deputy Administrator?

(ii) To what extent would you have discretion to exercise management responsibilities and to what extent would you be restricted by the "specific direction" of the Administrator?

B. The Administrator has, as you know, established a position of Chief of Staff. According to the Administrator's May 12 memorandum, all Associate Deputy Administrators and the Staff Office Directors (such as the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of Budget and Finance) report directly to the Chief of Staff. In addition, the Chief of Staff is "responsible for coordination and review of day-to-day issues for the entire Agency." No mention is made of a role for the Deputy Administrator vis-a-vis these or any other functions of the Chief of Staff.

(i) How does the position of the Deputy Administrator relate to the Chief of Staff position?

(ii) Please describe the means or routes through which the Associate Deputy Administrators and Staff Office Directors would have access to you and you to them and through which the heads of the three VA Departments (Medicine and Surgery, Veterans' Benefits, and Memorial Affairs) would have access to you and you to them.

(iii) What would your responsibilities be with respect to day-to-day operations of the agency?

(C)(i) In the Administrator's absence, what would your role be in the management of the agency and policy-making?

(ii) Who would have authority in the Administrator's absence to sign on his behalf regulations and other directives, official reports, correspondence, and various types of communications?

D. Are there any plans for making changes in the organization of responsibilities in the Administrator's Office if you are confirmed?

[If so] Please describe any such changes.

E. Are you satisfied that the current organizational framework (with any planned changes) is one that best serves the needs of the agency and the needs of veterans?

Answer 3. At the time the May 12, 1986 memorandum setting forth the organizational structure of the Office of the Administrator was issued, I do not believe I was even under consideration for the position of Deputy. My predecessor, Everett Alvarez, had departed the V.A., or had announced his intention to depart imminently. Thus, an organizational structure had to be crafted with no Deputy either in place or under consideration.

3A(i) If confirmed, as I become more conversant with the issues currently affecting the Veterans Administration, and as I become more cognizant of the particular competence of other senior executives on the Administrator's staff -- and they with mine -- I would envision a reallignment which would specify particular responsibilities which I would have as Deputy Administrator. As I stated in response to another question, I would imagine those responsibilities would rely heavily upon my own background and expertise. As a Vietnam Combat Veteran, I would envision assuming substantial responsibilities for dealing with issues of particular concern to Vietnam Veterans, for example. As a former member of this committee's professional staff, I would imagine assuming additional responsibilities for issues of particular concern to Congress. Having worked with many of the Veterans Service Organizations during my tenure

as Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the committee, I would envision a larger role in dealing with those.

3A(ii) The Administrator is the Chief Executive Officer of the V.A. I would anticipate serving as his chief operating officer. As such, I would be responsive to directives issued by him.

B(i) The Chief of Staff and I have yet to work out any specific guidelines which would cover our personal and professional relationships. The Chief of Staff assumed his responsibilities at a time when there was no Deputy Administrator at the V.A. In that case, it was incumbent upon him to assume many of the responsibilities previously exercised by the Deputy lest those responsibilities remain unattended to. If confirmed, I have no reservation regarding the Chief of Staff and myself being able to work out a professional, mutually supportive role within the V.A. "front office."

B(ii) There has been no effort as yet to determine specific "means or routes" through which various senior managers within the V.A. would have access to me and me to them. Those with whom I have worked, or who have worked for me in the past, do know that my relationship with colleagues tends to be one of informality. Indeed having worked with many of the senior managers at the V.A. during my tenure on the committee staff, I know them personally and as friends, I would anticipate they would feel free to contact me directly on any issues of concern to them. Certainly I would have no reservations about contacting them in the same way.

B(iii) As I have mentioned, I would anticipate that my own responsibilities with regard to day to day operations would largely be a function of my own particular interests, competence and background. As I stated, I would envision a particular role with regard to issues of special concern to Vietnam Veterans and the Agency's relations with Congress. I also have a particular interest in other areas of V.A. activity, such as the question of how the agency can assure the provision of quality health care to a deserving constituency. I would hope to assume additional responsibilities with regard to that and other specific issues if confirmed.

C(i). In the Administrator's absence, I would envision assuming his position as Acting Administrator. In such capacity, I would do whatever was called for. This is wholly consistent with acting as the Administrator's "full alter ego."

C(ii). While I have not discussed specifically whose name would appear on correspondence, etc. in the Administrator's absence, I would have every expectation that my own would.

D. As I have stated, I would anticipate that there would be changes within the organization and of responsibilities within the Administrator's office if I am confirmed. Early on I discussed with the Administrator what my role within the V.A. should be prior to confirmation. We agreed that, out of deference for the confirmation process, the appropriate role should be the least possible. That being so, I have attempted to distance myself from the internal operations of the V.A. prior to confirmation. In addition, I have during that time occupied the position of General Counsel and Congressional Liaison of the United States Information Agency, in itself a demanding position. To assume responsibilities inconsistent with that would have been unfair to USIA Director, Charles Z. Wick.

E. I am firmly convinced Administrator Turnage is fully committed to meeting the needs of this country's Veterans, and doing so through the most efficient and effective means possible. The organizational structure designed in May, at a time when there was no Deputy Administrator in position — or contemplated — reflected the Administrator's effort to do that. In large measure, he was endeavoring to do so by foisting substantial responsibility which had previously been shouldered by the Deputy upon his Chief of Staff. I am confident that I can work with the Administrator, the Chief of Staff, and other senior executives within the V.A. to develop an organizational structure as well as a set of relationships, formal and informal, that will enable all of us to best serve this nation's Veterans.

Question 4.

Section 220 of title 38 requires the Administrator to seek to achieve maximum feasible effectiveness, coordination, and interrelationship of services among all Federal programs and activities affecting veterans and to promote actively the effective implementation of all provisions of law and regulations providing for special consideration, emphasis, or preference for veterans.

If confirmed as Deputy Administrator, what do you perceive your responsibilities would be with respect to this requirement?

Answer 4.

Given my background in government service which includes senior responsible positions within both the executive and the legislative branch, I believe I am uniquely qualified to work toward assuring the coordination and interrelationship of services and programs of all federal agencies designed to provide particular benefits for Veterans. Especially in these constrained budget times, I believe that such coordination is essential to assure that this nation's Veterans receive all the benefits designed by Congress and a greatful nation for them.

Question 5.

In a January 29 letter to me, Harry Walters noted that, as Administrator, it was his "responsibility to be the advocate for our Nation's 28 million veterans." He said, "Without advocates in the Administration and the Congress, those benefits our veterans, their widows, and orphans have earned will ultimately be lost. Veterans are special and must be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect."

A. What are your thoughts on these characterizations of the Administrator's role and of veterans?

B. Would you similarly characterize the Deputy's responsibilities?

Answer.

5A. Administrator Harry Walters referred to the role of Administrator as advocate for Veterans. He also made reference to the fact that "Veterans are special and must be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect." I concur in that assessment. I know that Administrator Turnage agrees with that as well. I do know that he has assumed the advocate role, although he has received -- and sought -- little credit for that. In his own confirmation hearing, he made reference to his own advocacy for Veterans and programs designed to benefit them as not just a statutory obligation, but one which he felt "morally and in spirit" as well.

5B. I would similarly characterize the Deputy's responsibilities, and would anticipate being an active, and hopefully effective, advocate for Veterans and Veterans' programs.

Question 6.

Tom, as I noted in my opening statement, I am very pleased that the tradition, which dates back to 1977, of having a Vietnam veteran in one of the top two positions at the VA will be continued with your confirmation. In this regard, it is my expectation that you will be identified by many within and outside of the VA as the principal person in a top management position within the agency with expertise on, and particular responsibility for, issues related to Vietnam-era veterans.

A. (i) Is it planned that you would serve as the focal point in the Administrator's office for Vietnam veterans' issues?

(ii) Are you satisfied that you will be utilized appropriately with respect to issues regarding Vietnam-era veterans?

B. Could you give us your views on the overall status of Vietnam-era veterans in terms of their needs for assistance in the areas of readjustment, employment, education, and health-care, including your views on any differences with respect to these needs deriving from their service in Vietnam as such and whether or not they did or did not see combat there?

C.(i) With specific reference to the Agent Orange issue, do you believe that you were exposed to Agent Orange during your service in Vietnam?

(if yes) Do you have any concerns about that exposure?

(ii) What further actions do you believe the Federal Government should be taking at this time to address the continuing concerns of Vietnam veterans -- men and women -- about their exposure to Agent Orange?

D.(i) Do you believe that the VA has been sufficiently responsive to the needs of Vietnam veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder?

(ii) What thoughts do you have for any needed improvements in this area and how to make them?

E. What are your views on the Vet Center program and, more specifically, what do you think should be the future of this program in terms of size and whether or not the store-front vet centers should be retained to provide readjustment counseling services to Vietnam-era veterans?

F. One concern that many Vietnam-era veterans express involves what they characterize as the VA's lack of responsiveness to the needs of homeless veterans. Do you have any views as to what the agency should do in response to the needs of homeless veterans?

Answer 6A(i). I would anticipate serving as a focal point within the Administrator's office for Vietnam Veterans' issues. As a combat Veteran of Vietnam who served for nearly two and one half years in Vietnam as an infantry officer, I believe I am particularly familiar with the experience of our Vietnam Veterans. I was fortunate. I had an opportunity to complete law school prior to entering on active duty as an infantry officer in late 1966. By the time I arrived in Vietnam, having completed a tour duty with troops in the United States, airborne and ranger training, I was 27 years old. The average age of the soldier in Vietnam was 19. I believe that my own experience in Vietnam, as well as my experiences with Vietnam Veterans since, uniquely equips me to serve as focal point for issues of particular concern to Vietnam Veterans.

6A(ii). I am completely satisfied that I will be given an appropriate role within the Administrator's office with regard to issues affecting Vietnam era Veterans.

6B. One of the reasons I am particularly pleased to have been selected by the president to serve as Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs is a concern I have with regard to the popular image of the Vietnam, and Vietnam era, Veterans. It is my firm belief that the vast majority of such Veterans are men -- and women -- such as myself, who have integrated effectively into the mainstream of American society. We are generally better educated, and healthier than those who did not serve in the military, and we make more money. Many of us, as have I, availed ourselves of GI bill educational benefits, V.A. guaranteed home loans, and other benefits available to us as Veterans. These benefits are significant, and I can assure you, I have appreciated having access to them. They eased my own transition to civilian life when I left the military at the age of 29.

Many others did not -- perhaps were unable to -- utilize benefits available to them as Veterans. They may have forgone those because of their youth. They may have been reacting to the unpopularity of the war in Vietnam. Their own wartime experiences may simply have been such that they could not productively avail themselves of programs designed to assist their integration into society. I believe this country, through the instrument of the V.A., has an obligation to provide that assistance to those individuals today. Indeed this is as much an opportunity as an obligation. To the extent a Veteran is not in the mainstream of American society, he or she is neither benefitting from, nor contributing to, this land of ours.

6C(i). I do believe that during the nearly two and one half years I spent as an infantry officer in Vietnam, there is a high likelihood that I was exposed to Agency Orange. I spent the first year of my tour there as a company commander with the 173 Airborne Brigade in II Corps at the base camp area at An KHE. The second year and a half were spent as an advisor with the Vietnamese Airborne Division, much of that time spent in the field in the III Corps area in the vicinity of Tay Nihn City and along the Cambodian border near there. I often was in areas that had been defoliated, and spent

extensive time in fire bases, the perimeters of which had been cleared by various means. I would imagine that arong the agents utilized to clear those areas was Agent Orange. Am I concerned about such exposure? Indeed I am. While on the staff of the committee, I had an Agent Orange physical at the V.A. Medical Center here in Washington, and was pleased that there were no apparent physical abnormalities revealed by that.

6C(ii). I do believe that it is incumbent upon the Federal government to continue its efforts to determine what, if any, causative effects may exist between diseases experienced by Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and that exposure.

6D(i). I do know that the V.A., and indeed, society in general, has become more sensitive to the phenomenon of post traumatic stressive disorder over the past few years. Indeed I would expect that the V.A. should be on the cutting edge of determining appropriate care for those suffering from PTSD. Given the high standards of professionalism of those that I have known and worked with within the V.A. system who have dealt with issues such as this, I would have every expectation that they would be dealing with this issue as best as they can, given the current state of medical understanding with regard to its origins and course of treatment.

6D(ii). I have been away from this issue for sometime, and have no particular observation with regard to improvements needed in the treatment of PTSD. If confirmed, I would be pleased to look into this matter further, and to address it at some future date before the committee.

6E. I do know that the VET Center program has provided needed assistance to many Veterans over the past several years. Further, I understand that that program is currently undergoing a review which will determine its future and whether the goals of the VET Center program can be adequately met by shifting that function to the V.A. Hospital system. I believe that the results of that study would be more meaningful than any casual observations I could make as an outsider.

6F. The issue of homelessness in America is one that has captured the attention of American society over the past several years. Veterans who happen to be homeless are obviously entitled to the full range of benefits

available to other Veterans. I believe that an effort should be made to insure that Veterans who are homeless are afforded those benefits. Yet, I understand that in the past an effort has been made by V.A. professionals to work through homeless shelters to attempt to find and provide appropriate care for homeless Veterans. In fact, the number of Veterans located through that program was de minimus. Thus, I am not sure at this time whether there is any unique program which would be appropriate to provide care to homeless Veterans.

Question 7.

It is my strong belief that the cost of veterans' benefits is a continuing cost of providing for our Nation's defense. What are your thoughts on the relationship between defense spending and our national security, on the one hand, and the costs of veterans' benefits on the other?

Answer 7.

I share your view that the cost of Veterans benefits is part of the continuing cost of the national defense.

Question 8.

A. What are your views on the VA's response to the needs of women veterans?

B. What improvements, if any, do you believe that the VA needs to make in this area?

Answer 8A. I believe that the V.A. has an obligation to meet all of the needs of women veterans -- as it does any other veterans. I also believe that the professional staff within the V.A. is committed to meeting such needs and recognizes that the obligations implied will grow in the years ahead as more and more women now serving in the armed forces become Veterans.

8B. I have no particular recommendations with regard to improvements needed to meet the needs of women veterans.

Question 9.

If confirmed, will you be available to testify before this Committee and our counterpart in the House of Representatives when your personal appearance is requested?

Answer 9.

If confirmed, I will look forward to working with the committee and to your counterpart committee on the House of Representatives and will be pleased to appear before the committee to testify whenever requested.